

We Claim:

1 1. A set of handcuffs comprising:
2 a pair of openable bracelet sections, each of said bracelet sections
3 including a locking mechanism for opening and closing said bracelet section;
4 linkage means for tethering said bracelet sections together; and
5 a restraint mechanism connected to said linkage means, said
6 mechanism permitting a bracelet section to be rotated about a linkage axis
7 extending through said linkage means and said bracelet sections so as to
8 rotate said bracelet section to a predetermined angular position relative
9 thereto.

1 2. A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said restraint
2 mechanism includes a ratchet gear that is rotatable about said linkage axis,
3 said ratchet gear having a number of teeth disposed thereabout; and
4 at least one ratchet pawl engageable with said teeth for preventing
5 said ratchet gear from rotating in a first rotational direction upon
6 engagement thereof.

1 3. A mechanism as recited in Claim 2, wherein said restraint
2 mechanism further includes two ratchet pawls, each of said ratchet pawls
3 being disposed on opposite sides of said ratchet gear.

1 4. A mechanism as recited in Claim 3, wherein each of said
2 ratchet pawls are biased into contact with said ratchet gear.

1 5. A mechanism as recited in Claim 4, wherein engagement of
2 the biased ratchet pawls with the teeth of the ratchet gear restricts further
3 movement of the gear in said first rotational direction about said linkage axis
4 but permits further movement in an opposite second rotational direction.

1 6. A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 bracelet section can be rotated and locked in at least 2 predetermined
3 angular positions.

1 7. A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one
2 bracelet section can be rotated and locked in at least 8 predetermined
3 angular positions.

1 8. A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said linkage
2 means includes means for permitting said bracelet sections to be folded
3 onto one another for storage.

1 9. A method of restraining an individual using a set of handcuffs,
2 said method including the steps of:
3 cuffing an individual using said handcuffs; and
4 rotating one of the bracelet sections of said handcuffs to a
5 predetermined angular position relative to the other of said bracelet sections
6 in a first rotational direction about a linkage axis extending through said
7 bracelet sections, said handcuffs including a restraint mechanism preventing
8 said bracelet sections from being rotated to a previous angular position once
9 said locking mechanism has been engaged.

1 10. A method as recited in Claim 7, including the step of cuffing
2 said individual behind said individual's back.

1 11. A method as recited in Claim 7, including the step of cuffing
2 said individual in front of said individual.

1 12. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said rotation step
2 includes the step of rotating said arms relative to one another about the
3 linkage axis.

1 13. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said rotation step
2 includes the step of rotating said arms relative to the linkage axis.

1 14. A method as recited in Claim 7, including the step of rotating
2 said arms 90 degrees relative to said linkage axis.